

UTAH SPORTS AUTHORITY
PETE SUAZO UTAH ATHLETIC COMMISSION
MINUTES

June 3, 2008

10:00 a.m. (57 minutes 14 seconds)

Attending: Chairman: Alan Dayton, Commissioners: Ty McCartney and Taylor Leavitt, Secretary: Bill Colbert and guest, Jeremy Horn (Elite Fight Night), Isaiah Salazar (IS Promotions), David Putvin (Elite Fight Night) and Mike Stidham (UCE).

Alan called the meeting to order.

Swearing in of New Commissioner

Taylor Leavitt was sworn in as a Commissioner of the Pete Suazo Utah Athletic Commission.

Public Comments

Jeremy is concerned with Ron Brown acting as an inspector for the commission as well as cornering and managing boxers due to a conflict of interest. Bill indicated there has been a policy that if an individual is acting in a licensed capacity they cannot work for the commission in any officiating position. The commission has taken note of this.

Approval of Minutes

Ty made the motion to approve the minutes from March 10 and 21. Taylor seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Currently Sanctioned Events

MMA UCE: Saturday, June 7, 2008 at 7:00 PM, Club Elevate, 155 W. 200 S., SLC
Saturday, June 14, 2008 at 7:00 PM, Club Elevate, 155 W. 200 S., SLC
Saturday, June 21, 2008 at 7:00 PM, Club Elevate, 155 W. 200 S., SLC

Bill will not be able to attend the June 7 event. Taylor will be in attendance June 7 and possibly Rich Montanez. Bill will attend the June 14 and 21 events.

Requests by Promoters to Sanction Future Events

Mike has asked the commission to sanction his event June 28. He also wants to hold an event August 23 in Vernal.

Anthony Monsen is a new mixed martial arts (MMA) promoter that has scheduled an event on August 23 in Salina, Utah.

Jeremy requested the commission sanction an event on either June 27 or 28. He should know today which date the event will be held. Alan suggested Bill reserve both days.

Isaiah requested the commission sanction an event on August 2 at the Ogden Stadium, 668 17th Street, and August 23 in Logan, Utah. A Logan venue will be secured upon the commission's sanctioning. Isaiah would like to continue to promote MMA and boxing within one event but is having difficulties with the cooperation between the communities of both disciplines.

Bill pointed out that it will be difficult to support three events on the same date, August 23. Sanctioning is being requested simultaneously in Salina, Logan and Vernal. Bill indicated there are limited inspectors, some more experienced than others. Bill will cover the event in Salina, Ty will cover Vernal and Taylor will cover Logan.

No events are sanctioned in July at this time.

New Promoter License – Robert Monsen, Richfield, UT

Robert Monsen has applied and paid for a promoter license with an event request of August 23. Bill still needs to get his background check. Robert has been a licensed second and runs a mixed martial arts studio.

Proposed Rule Changes

Bill provided copies of proposed rule changes to R859-1-501 listed below. Some of these changes incorporate Rich's recommendations from previous meetings. Underlines represent additional text requirements and there are some strikeouts. It provides one additional requirement that promoters will be similar to other licensees in that there will be no consumption of alcohol during an event. This is an attempt to streamline licensee requirements. The commission has verbally provided that guidance.

- a. Medical Insurance Requirements
 - i. Mike is concerned that the PSUAC will put Utah promoters out of business if Nevada's insurance policies are used as the Utah and Nevada markets are not comparable. There was much discussion regarding insurance requirements. Mike suggested that Ken Hansen, formerly of the task force and AG's office, has a lot of data on this. Alan asked Bill to contact Ken and asked Mike if he can provide them with any data. Mike agreed to get his data to Bill.
- b. Weigh-in Procedures
 - i. Mike indicated that there are some fighters that have a lot of fight experience and are difficult to find opponents for. If the more experienced fighter can fight up in weight, ie. wearing additional clothing and/or accessories, then it becomes a more even scale and easier to find them opponents.
- c. Drug Testing
 - i. Some fighters have requested the commission tell them what substances are and are not legal. Bill is suggesting the adoption of Nevada drug testing rules.

There will be a hearing and a public comment period for all above mentioned proposed changes.

Ty made the motion to put all three rules out for public comment. Taylor seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Alan and Ty both acknowledged the increased promoter frustrations with the ever changing commission, rules and policies. Ty indicated the desire of the commission is to promote the sport of boxing and MMA and not to put promoters out of business but contestants have to be protected at same time.

Open Discussion

Jeremy has concerns with the proposed weigh-in procedures. Bill indicated that there will be a three or four week notice before the public hearing is held. There is a minimum thirty day window for public comment. Comments can be made in person or submitted in writing. Bill needs to assess the financial impact of any rule change and encourages input from promoters to establish that balance. Bill also has the ability to survey other commissions regarding any proposed rule changes.

David Putvin asked how MMA evolved in Utah. Bill indicated there were problems with club fights and Toughman contests (elimination tournaments). The question asked is how the State will deal with the possibility of bad press which may raise public questions of whether MMA should be done away with. Ty feels the commission would meet and decide how to respond to the media and take away any liability of the State.

Isaiah made the request of the commission to define security concerns and responsibilities as well as the conduct of officials versus fighters. His request comes from a fight where the contestant was unhappy with the decision of the referee and a security issue was a possibility.

Jeremy is concerned with ringside/cageside seating. He questions why some promoters are allowed to sell seats ringside/cageside and others are told the commission owns all ringside/cageside seating. Bill verified that the rules specify that all ringside/cageside seating is controlled by the commission. Jeremy requests the commission not allow double standards.

Next meeting will tentatively be held Wednesday, July 9, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.

Ty made the motion to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.